

INTERCOLONIAL

There are 10 Fathers of the Order of St. Augustine laboring in North Queensland. The entire Catholic population of this vast Vicariate does not exceed 6000 persons, and these are found only in small centres, far distant one from the other.

Cardinal Moran, in an address at Parramatta a few Sundays ago, touched upon the work of the Irish race as church builders. His Eminence reminded his audience that if the drum-beat of the British forces followed the sunrise around the world, no less true was it that in every land under the British flag Celtic hands had raised Catholic churches and Celtic voices were heard in Catholic anthems.

His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne and some twenty priests were present at the obsequies of the late Mrs. Verga in St. John the Baptist's Church, Clifton Hill, on July 29. The deceased lady was the wife of Mr. Thos E. Verga, J.P. It may be mentioned that St. John's Church was partly built and wholly furnished by Mr. Verga and his late wife.

The funeral of the late Very Rev. Father Le Renmetel (says the 'Catholic Press') was probably one of the largest seen in Sydney since that of Archbishop Polding in 1877. It was extraordinary in numbers and extraordinary in the deep sorrow that swayed the multitudes which gathered at the church and cemetery and lined the route of the sad procession from end to end. The bells of churches outside the Catholic fold joined their melancholy tolling to the muffled peals of St. Mary's Cathedral. It is estimated that over 40,000 people took part in the last obsequies. The whole city practically suspended business when the hearse left St. Patrick's for Waverley.

The Archbishop of Adelaide has published his ninth annual report of the financial affairs of the archdiocese, in which he says:—Our total expenditure for the nine years was £194,682. Against this amount the total of our receipts was £191,335. With figures of such magnitude the shortage—£3,346—will seem hardly worth taking into account. In reference to the 'old accounts,' the report says:—'The long list of old liabilities—those liabilities, viz., which were in existence in March, 1895—continues to contract. Of that list, which comprised 28 items in 1895, representing a debt of £56,968, 18 items had disappeared by March 31, 1903, three more had vanished from their places in the table, and this year one again falls out. But six items remain. The £56,968 of March, 1895, is represented, after payment of interest and all other claims, by a debt of but £12,883 in our last balance-sheet.'

His Lordship Bishop Murray, of North Queensland (writes the Brisbane correspondent of the 'Catholic Press') was here recently on his return from the south, and in the course of conversation his Lordship told us the following incident, which is worth repetition. A few months ago, when the Bishop was at Thursday Island, a sick call arrived all the way from Port Darwin. The priests on the island being the shortest distance from the sick person, there was nothing to do but for one of them to pack up and take the next boat Port Darwinwards. Six weeks later, when Dr. Murray again called at the island, the priest who went on the long sick call had not returned. He was still patiently awaiting a steamer to bring him back. Long distances are still very familiar to many of the priests of Queensland. Only a week or two ago Father Fitzsimons, of Rockhampton, covered 310 miles with one horse and buggy.

In his annual report of St. Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, the Inspector of Public Charities writes as follows:—'The institution closed the year with a debit balance of £533. The cost per bed was £44 13s 7d., compared with the mean cost of general hospitals of £58 17s 2d. The average cost of each in-patient was £2 19s 4d., and the estimated cost of out-patients was £1302. There is no paid collector, and the proportion of cost of administration to expenditure on maintenance was 3 per cent. The managers of this hospital are deserving of the highest praise for the results which the statistics of the year show. The institution is one of the most economically managed of all the hospitals of the State. On the other hand, it is exceptionally well supported by the public, as it receives by a long way the highest rate, per daily average, of all the hospitals in the State. This result is worthy of congratulation, more especially when it is remembered that paid collectors are not employed in connection with the institution. In addition to these facts, the hospital is kept up-to-date, and from every point of view is one of the most efficient in the State.'

Friends at Court

CLEANINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S CALENDAR

- August 21, Sunday.—Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost. St. Joachim, Father of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
 „ 22, Monday.—Octave of the Feast of the Assumption.
 „ 23, Tuesday.—St. Philip Beniti, Confessor.
 „ 24, Wednesday.—St. Alphonsus, Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor.
 „ 25, Thursday.—St. Bartholomew, Apostle.
 „ 26, Friday.—St. Zephyrinus, Pope and Martyr.
 „ 27, Saturday.—St. Joseph Calasancius, Confessor.

St. Joachim, Father of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
 The Fathers of the Church unite in extolling the sanctity of St. Joachim and St. Anne, whose privilege it was to be the parents of the Most Pure Mother of God.

St. Philip Beniti, Confessor.

St. Philip Beniti, a priest of the Servite Order, was born at Florence about the beginning of the thirteenth century. He was remarkable for his extreme humility, which caused him to refuse all offices of distinction, and for a burning zeal which brought about the conversion of innumerable sinners in the different parts of Italy which he visited. He died in 1285.

St. Alphonsus, Bishop, Confessor, and Doctor.

St. Alphonsus Liguori was born at Naples in 1696. At the age of 30 he abandoned the legal profession, in which he had already made a name for himself, and in spite of the opposition of his father, he became a priest. Applying himself zealously to the duties of his sacred calling, he touched by his fervent discourses the hearts of the most inveterate sinners. Still more abundant was the fruit which he gathered in the tribunal of penance, where he joined a singular prudence and firmness to the most tender sentiments of paternal affection. He founded, and for a long time governed the 'Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer.' For eight years he was Bishop of St. Agatha, but at length obtained leave to resign this responsible office, which he had accepted only very reluctantly. In the midst of his labors he found time to compose a number of doctrinal and devotional works, which have earned for him the title of 'Doctor of the Church.' St. Alphonsus died in 1787, at the age of 90.

St. Bartholomew, Apostle.

St. Bartholomew was one of the twelve Apostles, and is generally supposed to be identical with Nathaniel. He carried the Gospel to India, i.e. Arabia Felix of Yemen. A century later traces of Christianity were found in these countries by Pantaenus of Alexandria, who also discovered a copy of St. Matthew's Gospel in Hebrew, which had been left there by St. Bartholomew. Armenian writers inform us that he afterwards traversed Persia, Babylonia, Mesopotamia, Syria, and Asia Minor. Thence he passed into Greater Armenia, and there, after making numerous conversions, suffered a cruel martyrdom at Albanopolis. By order of King Astyages, whose predecessor and brother, Polymius, had been converted by him, the Apostle was flayed alive and beheaded.

St. Zephyrinus, Pope and Martyr.

St. Zephyrinus became Pope in 202, the year in which the Emperor Septimius Severus began a general persecution of the Church throughout the Roman Empire. His pontificate was troubled by many heresies, which the Holy Pontiff resolutely combated. Whether his death was that of a martyr, or this title was given to him on account of his previous suffering for the faith, cannot be accurately determined.

St. Joseph Calasancius, Confessor.

St. Joseph was born in the Kingdom of Aragon, in Spain. From his youth, and especially after becoming a priest, he felt a great attraction for the instruction of children. Having gone to Rome, he devoted himself almost entirely to this work. He died in 1648, in his 92nd year, after having founded a religious Congregation, which had for its special object the education of the young, but particularly of the poorer classes.

At this season everybody is liable to Cough and Colds. Avoid all danger by taking TUSSEUR.